

Applic. No. 10/014,246
Amdt. dated December 3, 2004
Reply to Office action of October 14, 2004

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-5, 8-16, 20-23 and 25 remain in the application.

Claims 1 and 25 have been amended. Claims 6, 7, 17-19, and 24 have been cancelled.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1 and 25 have been objected to because according to the Examiner, --a-- or --the-- should be inserted before "vicinity". Claims 1 and 25 have been amended so as to facilitate prosecution of the application. Therefore the objection to claims 1 and 25 is believed to have been overcome. Applicants apologize for the confusion regarding the term "vicinity" in the last response.

Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic or clarificatory reasons. The changes are not provided for overcoming the prior art nor for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent, nor do they narrow the claims.

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In item 4 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-5, 8-16, 20-23 and 25 have been rejected as being obvious over Ettelbruck (WO 99/10175) in view of Iwasawa (JP 63-37626) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In item 5 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 1-5, 8-16, 20-23 and 25 have been rejected as being obvious over Iwasawa (JP 63-37626) in view Ettelbruck (WO 99/10175) of under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Furthermore, the Examiner stated in item 6 on page 4 of the Office action, that the declaration filed on July 15, 2004 is ineffective to overcome the Ettelbruck reference. More specifically, the Examiner stated that the evidence submitted is insufficient to establish a conception of the invention prior to the effective date of the reference.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner.

Applicants do believe that the "Erfindungsmeldung" contains sufficient evidence to establish a conception of the invention prior to the effective date of the reference. Furthermore, counsel will be at the Patent Office during the AM hours of December 9, 2004, and will request an interview with the Examiner on the 9th of December to further discuss this matter.

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Submitted herewith is a copy of the signed declaration, a new copy of the page of the "Erfindungsmeldung" containing the Figure, showing text relating to the Figure, which was cut-off in the first copy sent to the Patent Office. Also, enclosed is an updated translation of the "Erfindungsmeldung" showing the Figure and the additional text mentioned above along with some minor corrections to the translation (item 5, "NC-scenery" is now "NC-steering," and in item 7 the "not legible" is now "traveling gear, traction unit").

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 25. Claims 1 and 25 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5, 8-17, 20-23 and 25 are solicited.

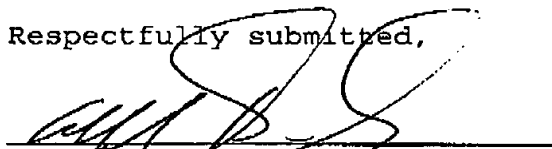
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

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If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition
for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner &
Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicant(s)

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AKD:cgm

December 3, 2004

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6. Erfindungsgemäße Lösung:

- flächendeckender Transport gegenüber anderen Lösungen für einen wirtschaftlichen Transport
- flächendeckende Nutzung des Reinvarens möglich
- Portalkrananlage mit MC-Achsen in x, y, z-Richtung in ~~untenen~~ ^{untenen} oder mehreren Segmenten
- derartige Krananlagen sind in der Halbleitertechnik nicht verfügbar (müssen reinraumtauglich gemacht werden z.B.: Kopplung von Antrieben, Feinwerkveränderte Halbleitern bei komplexen Teilen)
- komplexe Konstruktion mit neuen (Leichten, abriebfesten Materialien, ex-gestrichelten Antrieben, extremen Spannungen) erforderlich

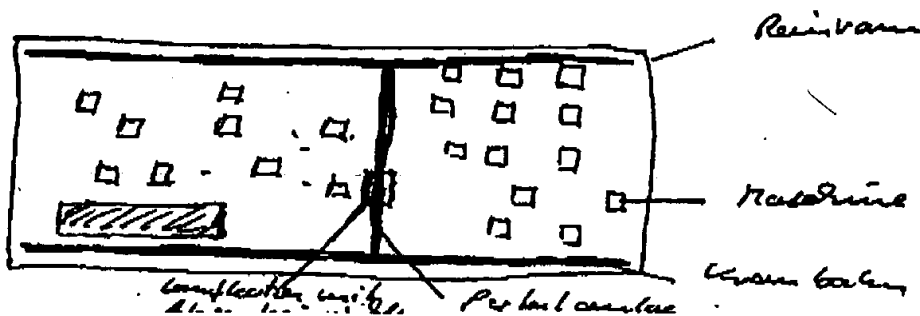
7. Worin sehen Sie die Vorteile der Erfindung?

- Senkung Investitionskosten; senkung Betriebskosten
- flächendeckender Transport möglich
- kurze Transportzeiten realisierbar
- Verteilung der Antriebe → damit besser verwertbar
- vermeiden Hersteller im Europa
- technisch einfache Lösung; keine Zwangsführung im Transport

8. Welche Umgehungsmöglichkeiten der Erfindung sehen Sie und inwieweit sind diese vorbekannt?

9. Als Anlagen sind folgende, ausführliche Darstellungen der Erfindung beigelegt:

(z. B. Beschreibung, zeichnerische Darstellung mindestens eines vollständigen Ausführungsbeispiels, Aktenbericht, Versuchsprotokoll, Konstruktionszeichnung usw., genaue Angabe von Titel, Nummer und Datum jeder Anlage)



Application No. 10/014,246
Invention Disclosure

INVENTION DISCLOSURE

Description of the Invention

September 21, 1998

TRANSPORT SYSTEM COVERING A COMPLETE AREA

1. Fields of Application of the Invention:

fabrication systems for the semiconductor industry

2. Purpose of the Invention:

- saving cost in manufacture
- reduction of run-through time
- flexible transport solution
- machine installation independent upon the transport system (flexibility in layout)

3. Known Solutions:

Which literature or which other materials are known to you? (also in-house materials, for example, development- and test reports, older constructions, etc.)

- transport systems in Dresden, North Tyne Site, White Oak
- transport solutions of PRI, Muraka Daifuko

4. Which disadvantages do the known solutions have?

- the transport systems are line-guided
- expenditure in investment and operation is very high
- the manufactured machines must be installed according to the transport system
- high expenditure in area and personnel

5. Which concrete technical problem is to be solved with the invention?

- transport covering a complete area, of wafers or chips in the manufacture of semiconductors and thus flexible transport
- by using a portal crane installation with NC-steering, every workplace can be reached after a short period of time

6. Solution according to the invention:

- transport covering a complete area compared to the typical line-guided transport of workpieces
- more flexible use of the clean room is possible

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- portal crane installation with NC-axis in x,y,z direction in one or more segments
- such crane installations are not available in the manufacture of semiconductors (they must be made suitable for a clean room, for example, packaging of drives, (traveling gear, traction unit), altered materials in moving parts
- complete new construction with new lighter non-abrasive materials [ex-protected drives, extreme expansion widths] required.

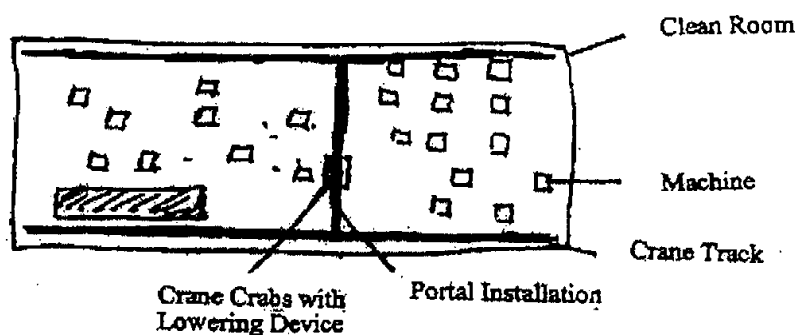
7. What do you think are the advantages of the invention?

- reduction of investment expenditure and cost reduction
- transport covering a complete area possible
- short transport times can be realized
- broader range of suppliers and thus better competition
- sufficient producers in Europe
- technically, a simple solution; no restricted guidance in transport

8. Which possibilities do you see for bypassing the invention and in how far are they known?

9. Enclosed are the following, detailed illustrations of the invention:

(for example, description, drawing of at least one complete embodiment, file report, test report, workshop drawing etc., precise indication of title, number and date of each enclosure)



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